

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A speech coding/decoding apparatus comprising:

a partial algebraic codebook for generating excitation vectors, each comprised of ~~three~~ two or more excitation pulses ~~such that an interval between at least a pair of the excitation pulses is relatively short, and storing the excitation vector;~~

~~limiting means for performing a limitation so that an excitation vector in which the~~ limiting an interval between at least a pair of the excitation pulses is to be relatively short, in an excitation vector among the excitation vectors; and

a random codebook used adaptively, corresponding to a size, with respect to the number of candidate vectors that may be generated, of the partial algebraic codebook.

11. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the limiting means controls the length of the ~~interval between the excitation pulses~~

using a relative relationship between a candidate position number (index) ~~of a position~~ of each excitation pulse, and ~~switches a~~ ~~strength of the limitation between~~ changes the number of candidate relative-relationships for each pair of excitation pulses in accordance with whether the excitation vector corresponds to a voiced speech and a or non-voiced speech.

12. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 9 10, wherein ~~a rate~~ the size of the random codebook, with regard to the number of entries therein, is adaptively increased by a portion corresponding to within a range of a decreased size of the partial algebraic codebook.

13. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the random codebook ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a plurality of channels for generating excitation vectors comprised of excitation pulses, and positions of the excitation pulses generated by the plurality of channels are limited so ~~that the excitation pulses do~~ as not to overlap between the channels.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

18. (Original) A base station apparatus comprising the speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

20. (Original) A communication terminal apparatus comprising the speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10.

Claims 21-24 (Canceled).